

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01481 200059Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05  
/116 W

-----051412 200930Z /15

R 190902Z MAY 78  
FM USLO PEKING  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0810  
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION NATO  
USINT HAVANA  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1481

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: CH UR CG PEPR SOPN

SUBJ: PRC CONDEMNS ZAIRE INVATIONS

SUMMARY. THE MAY 19 PEOPLE'S DAILY CARRIES A HARD-HITTING COMMENTATOR ARTICLE CONDEMNING THE "SOVIET-CUBAN LED" INVASION OF ZAIRE'S SHABA PROVINCE. PRC FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG HUA TOLD ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR THAT THE PRC GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE "FIRMLY SUPPORT" ZAIRE IN ITS STRUGGLE TO "REPULSE THE SOVIET CUBAN MERCENARIES" WHO HAVE INVADED THE SHABA REGION. AS HAS BEEN THE CASE WITH PREVIOUS SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA, THE PRC MEDIA AND LEADERSHIP WILL ATTEMPT TO EXPLOIT THE SHABA OUTBREAK AS "FURTHER PROOF THAT THE SOVIET UNION" SEEKS TO DOMINATE AFRICA TO "OUTFLANK WESTERN EUROPE." END SUMMARY.

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1. IN A HARD-HITTING MAY 19 ARTICLE, A PEOPLE'S DAILY COMMENTATOR CONDEMNED THE "SOVIET-BACKED" INVASION OF ZAIRE'S SHABA PROVINCE. THE COMMENTATOR MAINTAINED THAT THE INVASION IS A "NEW CRIME COMMITTED BY SOVIET SOCIALIST-IMPERIALISM AGAINST THE ZAIRIAN AND THE AFRICAN PEOPLE." THE COMMENTATOR ALSO STATES -

--THE INVASION WAS DELIBERATELY CONCEIVED BY MOSCOW;  
--THE MERCENARIES WERE HIRED BY THE SOVIET UNION AND  
THE OPERATION WAS "PLOTTED" IN HAVANA;  
--THE SECOND SHABA INCIDENT IS FURTHER PROOF THAT THE  
SOVIET UNION IS THE "MOST DANGEROUS ENEMY" OF ZAIRE AND  
AFRICA.

THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT THE NEW INVASION WILL CER-  
TAINLY STRENGTHEN AFRICAN UNITY AGAINST HEGEMONISM AND  
THE UNITED FRONT OF THE WHOLE WORLD."

2. PRC FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG HUA MET WITH THE ZAIRIAN  
AMBASSADOR MAY 17 AND PLEDGED THAT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT  
AND PEOPLE "FIRMLY SUPPORT" ZAIRE IN ITS STRUGGLE TO  
"REPULSE THE SOVIET-CUBAN MERCENARIES" WHO HAVE INVADED  
THE SHABA REGION. HUANG'S STATEMENT WAS CARRIED ON THE  
FRONT PAGE OF THE MAY 19 PEOPLE'S DAILY. THE NEW CHINA  
NEWS AGENCY ALSO REPORTS THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU SESE  
SEKO BRIEFED THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR ON THE CURRENT  
SITUATION. NCNA CONTINUES TO REPLY A LARGE NUMBER OF  
FOREIGN PRESS REPORTS CRITICAL TO THE INVASION, INCLUDING  
REPORTS OF THE US DECISION TO SPEED UP ARMS DELIVERY TO  
ZAIRE (CARRIED IN PEOPLE'S DAILY MAY 19).

3. COMMENT: THE PRC IS SURE TO ATTEMPT TO EXPLOIT  
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THIS LATEST OUTBREAK AS "FURTHER PROOF" THAT THE SOVIET  
UNION SEEKS TO DOMINATE AFRICA TO "OUTFLANK WESTERN  
EUROPE." EVEN THOUGH THE PRC LENDS ITS FULL  
PROPAGANDA SUPPORT TO THE AFRICA CAUSE, PRC LEADERS  
HAVE VERY LITTLE LEVERAGE IN AFRICA. CHINA'S LIMITED  
ABILITY TO DELIVER MATERIAL AID CONTRIBUTES TO THE PRC'S  
PERCEPTION THAT THE UNITED STATES IS THE ONLY NATION  
CAPABLE OF MEETING THE SOVIET CHALLENGE IN AFRICA.  
DEAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Subject:** PRC CONDEMNNS ZAIRE INVATIONS SUMMARY. THE MAY 19 PEOPLE'S DAILY CARRIES A HARD- HITTING COMMENTATOR ARTICLE CONDEMNING THE \"SOVIET  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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